

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER PROTECTION BUREAU
Metcalf Building, Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-3080**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Division/Bureau: Permitting & Compliance Division, MGWPCS Permits;

Project or Application: Glacier Point Major Subdivision; MTX000178

Description of Project: The permit authorizes the discharge of treated residential-strength wastewater from 84 single-family lots and 1 industrial/business lot described as a self-storage facility with an office. The proposed subdivision is located in the Helena Valley, west of Interstate 15 on the south side of Forestvale Road. Each lot will have an individual septic tank and an individual Eliminate (Level II) wastewater treatment system. The effluent is pressure-dosed to a community collection system that routes the effluent from each lot to a dosing chamber/tank. Effluent is pressure-dosed to a 52,178 ft² subsurface drainfield (Outfall 001). The design capacity of the treatment system is 25,250 gallons per day (gpd). A source specific, 170-foot ground water mixing zone is requested for Outfall. The location of Outfall 001 is 46° 39' 9.33" North Latitude and 112° 00' 46.22" West Longitude. Discharge is to ground water, which is classified "Class I" by the Montana Groundwater Quality Standards.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal:

Adequate treatment of residential-strength wastewater before discharging to groundwater.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:

None

Listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by this or another government agency:

See Statement of Basis

Affected Environment and Effects from the Proposed Project:

<u>Key to Rank</u>	
NA	<i>Not applicable</i>
N	<i>No effects</i>
B	<i>Potentially beneficial effects</i>
A	<i>Potentially adverse effects</i>
M	<i>Corrective action required</i>
P	<i>Additional permits will be required</i>

Rank	Consideration	Remarks
PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT		
N	1. SOIL SUITABILITY, TOPOGRAPHIC AND/OR GEOLOGIC CONSTRAINTS (soil moisture, unstable soils or geologic conditions, steep slopes, erosion potential, subsidence potential, seismic activity)	Discharge will increase moisture in the unsaturated zone. There are no known unique geological features at the site. There is no indication that the site chosen for the wastewater system will become unstable due to construction and proper operation of the system.

N	2.	HAZARDOUS FACILITIES (power lines, hazardous waste sites, distances from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petroleum storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane tanks)	
N	3.	AIR QUALITY (effects to or from project, dust, odors, emissions)	No significant impacts have been determined.
N	4.	GROUNDWATER RESOURCES & AQUIFERS (quality/nondegradation, quantity/reliability, distribution, uses/rights, number of aquifers, mixing zones)	There will be no significant degradation outside of the mixing zone for outfall 001 (see Statement of Basis for details and calculations).
N	5.	SURFACE WATER RESOURCES (quality/nondegradation, quantity/reliability, distribution, uses/rights, storm water controls, source of community supply, community treatment, mixing zones)	The nearest downgradient surface water from outfall 001 is the ski ponds (3,600 feet to the east). Ten Mile Creek is upgradient of the property is located approximately 1,200 feet to the southeast. It is a losing stream in this area. Impacts to surface waters were determined non-significant (see Statement of Basis for details and calculations).
N	6.	VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND HABITATS, INCLUDING FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (threatened, endangered, sensitive species, prime habitat, population stability, potential for human wildlife conflicts, effectiveness of post-disturbance plans)	
N	7.	UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (biologic, topographic, wetlands (within one mile), floodplains (within one mile), scenic rivers, natural resource areas, etc.)	
N	8.	LAND USE (waste disposal, agricultural lands [grazing, cropland, forest lands, prime farmland], recreational lands [waterways, parks, playgrounds, open space, federal lands], access, commercial and industrial facilities [production & activity, growth or decline], growth, land-use change, development activity)	
N	9.	HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, & ARCHEOLOGICAL (sites, facilities, uniqueness, diversity)	Should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered the permittee should contact the State Historical Preservation office so the site may be investigated.
N	10.	AESTHETICS (visual quality, nuisances, odors, noise)	Individual-lot septic tanks, Eliminite treatment systems, and discharges from outfall 001 are subsurface and are not visible and will not create aesthetic issues.
N	11.	DEMANDS ON OR CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INCLUDING LAND, WATER, AIR, OR ENERGY USE (need for new or upgraded energy sources, potential for recycling, etc.) {See (4), (5), and (8).}	Potable water will be provided via two onsite community supply wells.

Rank	Consideration	Remarks
IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION		
NA	12. CHANGES IN DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS (population quantity, distribution and density, rate of change)	The project is for new housing.
N	13. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS (quality, quantity and affordability)	
NA	14. POTENTIAL FOR DISPLACEMENT OR RELOCATION OF BUSINESS OR RESIDENTS	
N	15. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY (medical services and facilities, police, fire protection and hazards [see (2)], emergency medical services [see (8), LAND USE for waste disposal])	
N	16. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME PATTERNS (quantity and distribution of employment, economic impact)	
NA	17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND REVENUES	
NA	18. EFFECTS ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES (social conventions/standards of social conduct), DEMANDS ON SOCIAL SERVICES (law enforcement, educational facilities [libraries, schools, colleges, universities], welfare, etc.)	
NA	19. TRANSPORTATION NETWORK (condition and use of roads, traffic flow conflicts, rail, airport compatibility, etc.)	
N	20. CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, OR PLANS (conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning or capital improvement plans)	
NA	21. REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS (<i>Are we regulating pursuant to a police power? Does the Agency action restrict the use of the property beyond the minimum necessary to achieve compliance with the Act? What are the costs of such additional restrictions resulting from proposed permit conditions? Are there other, less restrictive ways of achieving the same goal? See your assigned legal counsel for assistance preparing this section. [See the Private Property Assessment Act checklist accompanying this permit for details.]</i>)	

Other groups or governmental agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:
 Lewis and Clark County Sanitarian

Public Involvement:

Thirty-day public comment period

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:

Permitting and Compliance Division, Subdivisions Bureau

Summary of Issues:

See Statement of Basis

Summary of Potential Effects:

See Statement of Basis

Cumulative Effects:

None

Recommendation:

Issue Ground Water Discharge permit

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

☐ Prepare an EIS

☐ Prepare a more detailed EA

☒ No further analysis

EA prepared by: Pat Potts

Date: December 2006

Bureau Check-off

AWMB _____

CSB _____

EMB _____

IEMB _____

WPB _____

Other _____

Approved by:

Bonnie Lovelace, Chief
Water Protection Bureau
Permitting & Compliance Division

(Print name and title)

(Signature)

(Date)